

Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail  
436 Grant Street (Courthouse)  
420 Ross Street (Jail)  
Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County

(HABS No. PA-610)

HABS  
PA,  
2-PTBU,  
29-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS

Addendum to  
Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail  
436 Grant Street (Courthouse);  
420 Ross Street (Jail)  
Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-610

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29-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Allegheny	TOWN OR VICINITY Pittsburgh
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail		HABS NO. PA-610
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 436 Grant Street (Courthouse); 420 Ross Street (Jail)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1884-1886	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Henry Hobson Richardson	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A prime example of noted architect Richardson's work in what would come to be known as the "Richardsonian Romanesque Style." The jail is particularly notable as an example of functionalism.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Richardsonian Romanesque		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Pinkish-grey Milford granite, partly rock-face and partly cut		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Courthouse: 5 stories plus basement; rectangular with interior courtyard; gable & hip roofs Jail: 5 stories plus basement; irregular plan of radiating wings; gable, hip & tent roofs		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Courthouse & Jail connected by enclosed arched bridge. Courthouse: approx. 10-story tower on Grant Street facade; smaller towers rise from corners of interior court; heavy round-arched openings; rounded and square projections; ornate dormers. Jail: Corbeled round, square & octagonal towers; large enclosing wall.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Courthouse: In 1912-14, Alden & Harlow designed stairs to main entrance; these were removed in 1928 when the street was widened. The necessary changes to the main entrance altered its proportions. In 1903-1905, F. J. Osterling enlarged the jail.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Listed as a National Historic Landmark.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS		DATE 7/11/84